

Northern Indiana Integrated Warning Team Workshop

October 17th, 2012

Notes from Breakout Group D:

Data Needs:

NWS:

Started off with NWS representative (Mark Ratzer) commenting about the need of the NWS to receive Ground Truth in a timely manner.

Law Enforcement / Dispatch:

Who is going to be impacted and what are the possible impacts from the storms?

Media:

Need real-time watch/warning, including the reasoning and ideas for why these are issued.

Along with this there is a critical need for real-time reports and images. The issue of rights to use images on air when posted to Facebook was raised.

Some issues raised by the EMA and Emergency Responders:

Local government officials do not trust / allow the use of social media. It was expressed that there may be some issues with trust, buy-in and understanding of the benefits of these tools. Likewise it was noted that there are some legitimate concerns with the 'ills' of social media.

There is a concern about the liability of 'sharing' reports of damage from the law/fire/dispatch. This liability issue needs to be addressed at the local level to identify whether this liability is real or perceived (especially in light of public safety during severe/adverse weather events.)

Dispatchers and EMA both expressed concern over how quickly the resources are overwhelmed by phone calls during events. Relaying information after reception is nearly impossible when the operations become saturated.

All parties recognized that utilizing NWSSchat should provide at least some means of sharing information in a more effective / efficient manner.

Recommendation: Need to educate the local government officials (commissioners, etc.) on the benefits of using social media platforms (including NWSSchat.) This education will help to develop 'buy-in' from the local officials and facilitated limited implementation of the services.

Recommendation: The NWS needs to promote the use of NWSSchat and provide guidance on using this tool.

All members of the team recommend the use of NWSSchat as the best tool to communicate to ALL members of the IWT. It was also noted that NWSSchat should be recognized as 'social media'.

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Proposed Action Item from Breakout Group D:

Action Item:

- **Group D recommends** that the IWT membership utilize Social Media to receive, share and communicate before, during and after adverse weather events.
 - To succeed, education and training will need to be provided to local government officials and other members of the IWT to assure buy-in and approval for use.
 - NWS needs to promote the use of NWSChat among the membership.

Group Members

Edward Rock - Director Kosciusko County Government
Emergency Management

Michele Wilkinson - Administrative Assistant Miami County EMA
Emergency Management

Rick Tripp - Deputy Director St. Joseph County (IN) EMA
Emergency Management

Keith Walters - Assistant Director Wabash County EMA
Emergency Management

Don Bulla - Deputy Director Williams County EMA / 911
Emergency Management

Kevin Hicks - Dispatcher Grant County Sheriff's Dept.
Emergency Response - Dispatch/Fire/Police/EMS

Jim Moehring - Skywarn Quad 3 Coordinator IMO Skywarn - Allen County
Emergency Response - Dispatch/Fire/Police/EMS

Danny Piech - Dispatcher Indiana State Police
Emergency Response - Dispatch/Fire/Police/EMS

Nicholas Ferreri - Meteorologist WANE-TV
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Matthew Rudkin - Meteorologist WSBT-TV
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Michael Lewis - Warning Coordination Meteorologist National Weather Service
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Michael Skipper - Meteorologist-General Forecaster National Weather Service
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Mark Ratzer - Meteorologist National Weather Service – Chicago
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